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## Book Review

### Compte rendu de livre

#### Bovine Laminitis and Lameness – A Hands-on Approach

Greenough PR, Saunders Elsevier, Philadelphia, USA, 2007. Hardcover, 311 pp. ISBN: 978-0-7020-2780-2. \$137.60.

**T**his book is a comprehensive, well-organized, readable text. The book is edited by a well-known author, has 3 consulting editors, and 28 contributors from around the world.

Each of the 19 chapters has color-coded boxes to highlight vital information in 3 areas: key concepts, technical comments, and glossary terms.

Chapter 1 is an introduction that gives an overall descriptive idea about the aim of the book. It provides a historical commentary and clinical importance of lameness. Animal welfare issues in bovine lameness, economic importance, and effect of lameness on reproductive efficiency is also included. It concludes with the influence and relation of the different production systems on lameness.

The second chapter covers the gross and microanatomy as well as the function of the bovine claw. This chapter provides the basics for understanding bovine claw pathology. The third chapter deals with recognizing the characteristics of lameness and covers normal gait, lameness clinical recognition as well as scoring the severity of lameness. The fourth chapter discusses the laminitis syndrome exclusively. It covers in details the different etiologies, signs and lesions, and treatment and control of lameness.

Chapters 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 deal with topics related to bovine lameness including nutritional risk factors, cow comfort, behavior and housing, pasture managed cattle, water, and strategic use of micronutrient supplements. Chapter 7, disorders of the claw capsule associated with laminitis, thoroughly covers common diseases including sole ulcer, white line disease, toe ulcer, toe abscess, and others. A better location for this chapter would have been just after chapter 4.

Chapters 11 and 12 deal with rearing replacement stock (heifers), and genetic selection and conformation, respectively. These chapters outline rearing and genetic selection strategies to reduce the risk of lameness and laminitis in the herd. Chapter 13 covers separate and important entity; the downer cow and peripheral

neuropathies. The first section of this chapter focuses on evaluating the recumbent cow and identifying the cause of recumbency, and provides the practical treatment and prevention methods. The second section of Chapter 13 covers the different peripheral neuropathies including radial, sciatic, obturator, femoral, perineal, and tibial nerve paralysis.

Chapter 14 is one of the most helpful and important chapters for bovine practitioners. It thoroughly covers the routine, but essential, procedures and protocols in lameness treatment and prevention. These include claw trimming, foot baths, restraint, bandaging, lifts, and shoes. Chapters 15 and 16 deal with the infectious diseases and other conditions that affect the interdigital and digital regions. Chapter 17 covers step-by-step procedures of foot surgery and is supported by the relative applied anatomy. It also covers arthrocentesis, arthroscopy, regional anesthesia, and antibiotic perfusion, and nerve blocks. Chapter 18 comprises the disorders that affect the upper parts of the limb. The book concludes with a chapter that outlines and details an approach to control lameness in dairy herds.

References are listed at the end of the first 18 chapters. Very few references are cited in the text. Although a text that is congested with references might be cumbersome to read, as stated by the authors, the presence of references embedded in the text is important for researchers and readers who would like to follow up the information presented.

I found this book highly informative and easy to read. It contains over 450 clear color images and diagrams that are used to illustrate many anatomical structures, clinical signs, lesions, diagnostic procedures, and other topics. Indeed, this book is a valuable and welcome addition to the veterinary literature.

This book is most useful for bovine practitioners, students, technicians, and researchers who are interested in bovine lameness and laminitis.

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